

b5 30. (New) The invention as in claim 10 wherein the server of the first type is disposed to handle dynamic data and the server of the second type is disposed to handle static data.

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated June 4, 2001, applicants submit the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of each and every ground of rejection set forth in the Office Action.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-28 (the Action apparently through inadvertence refers to "claims 1-29") for obviousness under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable based on Larson et al. U.S. Patent 5,907,324 ("Larson et al.") in view of McNerney et al. U.S. Patent 5,999,208 ("McNerney et al."). According to the Office Action, Larson et al. discloses a server that maintains a conference and various profiles of the conference that may be retrieved by clients on a network. McNerney et al., according to the Office Action, discloses maintaining a list of multiple conferences. The Office Action then asserts that it would have been obvious to incorporate multiple conference tracking as taught by McNerney et al. into Larson et al.'s conferencing system to increase efficiency of the system.

As an initial matter, applicants do not concede that McNerney et al. qualifies as prior art and specifically reserves all rights with respect to antedating that patent as a prior art reference with respect to applicants' claimed invention. However, for the reasons explained

below, applicants submit that the subject matter of the claimed invention is patentable over McNerney et al., either alone or in combination with Larson et al., in any event.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of the claims. In particular, applicants submit that independent claims 1, 10, 20, and 25 are patentably distinct from Larson et al. in view of McNerney et al. Neither reference, alone or in combination, discloses a system or method that uses servers of different types to manage different data types. In this way, users may query a server maintaining data of one type, namely, a static list of servers disposed to maintain data concerning the conferences. Thus, based on the query, the client may learn of servers maintaining data of another type, namely, dynamic data concerning conference and/or client publishing the conference. As explained in the specification, this arrangement permits a very elegant way to manage different data types in connection with conferencing.

Larson et al. is directed to a method of dynamically establishing a plurality of conferences with a persistent conference object that maintains and manages the various conferences. Thus, as acknowledged by the Office Action, information concerning the conferences is maintained on a single server.

McNerney et al. is directed to providing a virtual reality mixed media presentation. Although McNerney et al. teaches multiple services and servers included within a "virtual meeting services circuit 28," the various servers are used to provide various services in the multi-media conference. McNerney et al. does not utilize different server types to manage different data types. Thus, for example, McNerney et al. fails to disclose a first type of server, which itself maintains data of a first type such as a list of servers that contain at least

one conference. It follows that McKerney et al. also fails to disclose a second type of server, which is configured to maintain data of a second type, such as dynamic data relating to one or more conferences.

Similarly, the combination of Larson et al. and McNerney et al. proposed in the Office Action does not render the subject matter of applicants' claims obvious. Among other things, such a combination would still fail to render obvious a system or method that maintained data of different types on servers of different types, such as a static list of servers containing conferences on a first type of server and dynamic information concerning the conferences themselves on one or more servers of a second type. Thus, such a proposed combination would nonetheless require a client to access the server maintaining the conference to discover a conference list maintained on that server. This would require user knowledge of the actual address of the server of interest.

Unlike the Examiner's proposed combination of Larson et al. and McNerney et al., the subject matter of claims 1, 10, 20 and 25 does not require knowledge of the actual address of the server or servers maintaining a conference. A user can locate all of the servers relating to the conference on the network by accessing a second server, which contains a server list for the servers containing conferences.

In addition, the presently claimed invention deals with tracking conferences on an entire network, not merely keeping a list of conferences that a user may join on one single server. Therefore, the presently claimed invention solves problems of scale that are caused

by the use of dynamic information by multiple conferences on multiple servers in a network. The references combined do not solve this problem.

Claim 10 also includes elements not shown or suggested by the references alone or combined. For example, neither reference shows querying “by a second client of a server of a second type” to find a first type of server which stores and maintains information regarding the conferences on the first server. For this additional reason, applicants submit that claim 10 is patentable.

Claim 20 recites querying “a first server to obtain a server list and to query each server on the server list to learn of at least one conference maintained by each server on the server list.” Neither Larson et al. nor McNerney et al. disclose this feature. Instead, McNerney et al. discloses querying a server to learn of information regarding that conference stored on the server. It fails to teach querying the first server to obtain a server list. This allows a client to readily locate servers that contain conferences even though the specific server address of the conference of interest is unknown.

Claim 25 is similar to claim 20 and the first step of the two-step query is neither shown nor suggested by the prior references.

Dependent claims 2-9, 11-19, 21-24, and 26-29, by definition incorporate all limitations of claims 1, 10, 20, and 25. As such, these claims are also in condition for allowance.

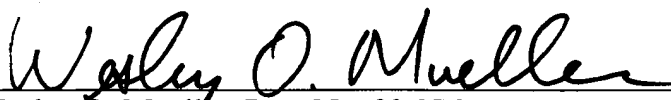
In addition to the comments above, claims 23, 24 and 28 recite various elements in “means-plus-function” format, and as such, are limited to the disclosed structures for

performing the recited functions and equivalents. For example, they require "means for finding and registering the first server and each server on the server list," "means for authenticating with the first server and each server on the server list," "means for storing information regarding each conference," and "means for storing information regarding each user learned of by the client." Also, claims 24 and 28 require "means for encrypting and authenticating the means for storing information," and "means for parsing conference information received by each server on the server list." These structures (or equivalents) are not shown or suggested in the references cited by the Office Action.

Conclusion

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: November 5, 2001

In re Appln. of Byrisetty et al.
Application No. 09/157,697



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION (along with any documents referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Date:

Nov. 5, 2001

Wesley O. Mueller



PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 210802

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Rajeev Byrisetty et al.

Group Art Unit: 2152

Application No. 09/157,697

Examiner: Farzaneh Farahi

Filed: September 21, 1998

For: CLIENT-SERVER CONFERENCE
AND USER SEEKING

**AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS MADE IN
RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED SEPTEMBER 4, 2001**

Amendments to the claims:

Please amend claims 1, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 20, 24 and 25 as follows:

1. (Amended) A system comprising:

at least one server of a first type, each of the at least one servers of the first type
disposed to [maintain] manage data of a first type including maintaining at least one
conference;

a server of a second type disposed to [store] manage data of a second type including
storing a list of the at least one servers of the first type; and

a client to query the server of the second type to obtain the server list and to query
each server on the server list to learn of the at least one conference maintained by each
server.

10. (Amended) A method for determining information concerning conferences handled by a server of a first type based on configuration data maintained by a server of a second type comprising the steps of:

querying by a second client [of a] the server of [a] the second type to learn of [a] the server of [a] the first type; and,

querying by the second client of the server of the first type to learn of a conference published by a first client to the server of the first type.

11. (Amended) The method of claim 10, further [initially] comprising the step of creating and publishing the conference by the first client to the server of the first type.

12. (Amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising joining by the second client of the conference published by the first client.

13. (Amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of querying by the second client of the server of the second type for an identification of the first client.

14. (Amended) The method of claim 13, further comprising:
querying by the first client of the server of the second type for an identification of the first client;

modifying by the first client of information stored in a
user object regarding the first client; and,

updating by the first client of the user object with the server of the second type.

20. (Amended) A client computer comprising:
a processor;

a computer-readable medium; and,

a computer program executed by the processor from the medium to query a first server, disposed to manage data of a first type including a server list, to obtain [a] the server list maintained by the first server and to query each server on the server list to learn of at least one conference maintained by each server on the server list.

24. (Amended) The client computer of claim 23, wherein the computer program further comprises:

means for encrypting and authenticating the means for storing information regarding each conference learned of by the client and means for storing information regarding each user learned of by the client; and,

means for parsing conference information received by each server on the server list.

25. (Amended) A computer-readable medium having a computer program stored thereon for execution on a computer to query a first server, disposed to manage data of a first type including a server list, to obtain [a] the server list and to query each server on the server list to learn of at least one conference maintained by each server on the server list.

Please add the following claims:

29. (New) The invention as in claim 1 wherein the data of the first type is dynamic data and the data of the second type is static data.

30. (New) The invention as in claim 10 wherein the server of the first type is disposed to handle dynamic data and the server of the second type is disposed to handle static data.



PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 210802

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Rajeev Byrisetty et al.

Group Art Unit: 2152

Application No. 09/157,697

Examiner: Farzaneh Farahi

Filed: September 21, 1998

For: CLIENT-SERVER CONFERENCE
AND USER SEEKING

PENDING CLAIMS AS OF NOVEMBER 5, 2001

1. A system comprising:

at least one server of a first type, each of the at least one servers of the first type disposed to manage data of a first type including maintaining at least one conference;

a server of a second type disposed to manage data of a second type including storing a list of the at least one servers of the first type; and

a client to query the server of the second type to obtain the server list and to query each server on the server list to learn of the at least one conference maintained by each server.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein each of the at least one servers of the first type further is to maintain a list of users, and the client further is to query each server on the server list to learn of the list of users maintained by each server.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein the server of the second type further is to maintain a list of users, and the client further is to query the server of the second type to learn



of the list of users maintained by the server.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the first type comprises an Internet Locator Service (ILS) type of server.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein the second type comprises a NT Directory Server (NTDS) type of server.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein the client comprises:
a first module to find and register the at least one server of the first type and the server of the second type; and,
a second module to connect and authenticate with the at least one server of the first type and the server of the second type.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein the client comprises:
a conference object for each conference learned of by the client, each object storing information regarding a conference; and,
a user object for each user learned of by the client, each object storing information regarding a user.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein the client comprises:
a security module to encrypt and authenticate each conference object and each user object; and,
a parser module to parse conference information received from the at least one server of the first type.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the conference information is in accordance with the Session Description Protocol (SDP).

10. A method for determining information concerning conferences handled by a server of a first type based on configuration data maintained by a server of a second type comprising the steps of:

querying by a second client the server of the second type to learn of the server of the first type; and,

querying by the second client of the server of the first type to learn of a conference published by a first client to the server of the first type.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of creating and publishing the conference by the first client to the server of the first type.

12. The method of claim 10, further comprising joining by the second client of the conference published by the first client.

13. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of querying by the second client of the server of the second type for an identification of the first client.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising:
querying by the first client of the server of the second type for an identification of the first client;

modifying by the first client of information stored in a user object regarding the first client; and,

updating by the first client of the user object with the server of the second type.

15. The method of claim 13, further comprising calling by the second client of the first client.

16. The method of claim 10, further comprising querying by the second client of the server of the first type for the first client.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising:
querying by the first client of the server of the first type for the first client;
modifying by the first client of information stored in a user object regarding the first client; and,

updating by the first client of the user object with the server of the first type.

18. The method of claim 16, further comprising calling by the second client of the first client.

19. The method of claim 10, wherein the first type comprises an internet Locator Service (ILS) type of server, and the second type comprises an NT Directory Server (NTDS) type of server.

20. A client computer comprising:
a processor;
a computer-readable medium; and,
a computer program executed by the processor from the medium to query a first server, disposed to manage data of a first type including a server list, to obtain the server list

maintained by the first server and to query each server on the server list to learn of at least one conference maintained by each server on the server list.

21. The client computer of claim 20, wherein the computer program further is to query each server on the server list to learn of a list of users maintained by each server on the server list.

22. The client computer of claim 20, wherein the computer program further is to query the first server to learn of a list of users maintained by the first server.

23. The client computer of claim 20, wherein the computer program comprises:
means for finding and registering the first server and each server on the server list;
means for connecting and authenticating with the first server and each server on the server list; means for storing information regarding each conference learned of by the client;
and,

means for storing information regarding each user learned of by the client.

24. The client computer of claim 23, wherein the computer program further comprises:

means for encrypting and authenticating the means for storing information regarding each conference learned of by the client and means for storing information regarding each user learned of by the client; and,

means for parsing conference information received by each server on the server list.

25. A computer-readable medium having a computer program stored thereon for execution on a computer to query a first server, disposed to manage data of a first type including a server list, to obtain the server list and to query each server on the server list to learn of at least one conference maintained by each server on the server list.

26. The medium of claim 25, wherein the program further is to query each server on the server list to learn of a list of users maintained by each server on the server list.

27. The medium of claim 25, wherein the program further is to query the first server to learn of a list of users maintained by the first server.

28. The medium of claim 25, wherein the program comprises:
means for finding and registering the first server and each server on the server list;
means for connecting and authenticating with the first server and each server on the server list;
means for storing information regarding each conference learned of by the client;
means for storing information regarding each user learned of by the client;
means for encrypting and authenticating the means for storing information regarding each conference learned of by the client and means for storing information regarding each user learned of by the client; and,
means for parsing conference information received each server on the server list.

29. The invention as in claim 1 wherein the data of the first type is dynamic data and the data of the second type is static data.

In re Byrisetty et al.
Serial No. 09/157,697

30. The invention as in claim 10 wherein the server of the first type is disposed to handle dynamic data and the server of the second type is disposed to handle static data.